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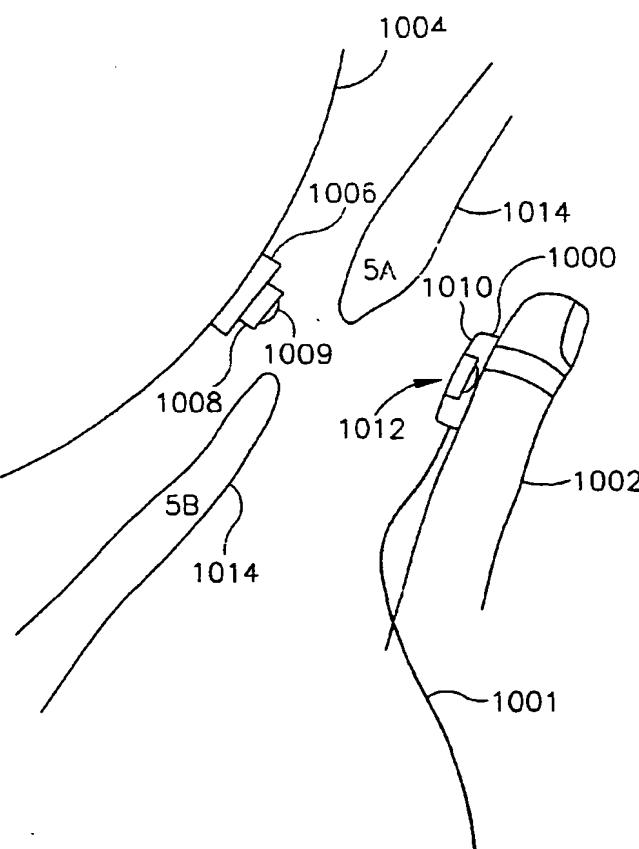
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MONITORING THE PROGRESS OF LABOR



(57) Abstract: A method of monitoring the progress of labor in a mother during childbirth, by using a position sensor to measure a predetermined point on the mother; monitoring the location of the position sensor in three-dimensional space; and monitoring the location of the fetal presenting part with respect to the predetermined point on the mother. The location of the fetal presenting part may be indicated by a similar position sensor, or by imaging. Other conditions, such as effacement, cervical dilatation, and cervical position may also be monitored in a similar manner. A reference or affixation point may be provided to the position sensor by, for example, attaching a key or shaped object to one or more points on the fetus or mother.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IL03/00928

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61B 5/03
 US CL : 600/588, 424, 304

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 U.S. : 600/588, 424, 304

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 East -- sensor, fetus, finger

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6,261,247 B1 (ISHIKAWA ET AL) 17 July 2001 (17.07.2001), entire document.	1-39
A	US 5,935,061 A (ACKER ET AL) 10 August 1999 (10.08.1999), entire document.	1-39
A	US 3,768,459 A (CANNON ET AL) 30 October 1973 (30.10.1973), entire document.	1-39
A	US 5,438,996 A (KEMPER ET AL) 08 August 1995 (08.08.1995), entire document.	1-39

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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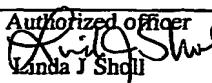
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